

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

COME-00 INT-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01 GSA-02 DRC-01 /053 W

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R 060840Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5617

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TANANARIVE 1247

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, EMIN, ETRD, MA, US

SUBJ: UNION CARBIDE INTEREST IN GRAPHITE

REF: STATE 173036

1. EMBASSY SEES NO REASON WHY UNION CARBIDE SHOULD NOT PROCEED WITH ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN GRAPHITE DIRECTLY FROM MADAGASCAR IF IT BELIEVES THIS WILL ASSURE MORE RELIABLE SUPPLY THAN USE OF US IMPORTERS. WE ARE NOT SUFFICIENTLY ACQUAINTED WITH INNER WORKINGS OF GRAPHITE TRADE TO COMMENT ON SUPPLY PROBLEMS UNION CARBIDE INDICATES IT HAS EXPERIENCED IN PAST. DURING PAST TWO YEARS, HOWEVER, WE HAVE HEARD TWO DIFFERING VIEWS ON WHY THERE HAVE BEEN PROBLEMS REGARDING SUPPLY OF MALAGASY GRAPHITE TO US. ON ONE HAND, US IMPORTERS HAVE COMPLAINED SOME SUPPLIERS IN MADAGASCAR HAVE NOT BEEN RELIABLE IN LIVING UP TO THEIR COMMITMENTS. ON OTHER, LOCAL PRODUCERS CLAIM GSA DISPOSALS SALES OF GRAPHITE HAVE HURT THEIR EXPORTS TO US AND HAVE MADE IT DIFFICULT TO ESTABLISH REASONABLE PRODUCTION PLANS BECAUSE OF UNCERTAINTY OF US MARKET.

2. GOMR SHOULD BE PREPARED TO ASSIST UNION CARBIDE IN OBTAINING ADDITIONAL SUPPLIES IF THIS IS AT ALL FEASIBLE, AND, AT THIS JUNCTURE, IF PRODUCTION IS PROBLEM, PROBABLY WILLING TO PUT PRESSURE ON THE SIX FRENCH FIRMS WHICH MONOPOLIZE INDUSTRY TO STEP UP OUTPUT.

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3. DURING RECEPTION DCM MENTIONED UNION CARBIDE'S INTEREST IN

DIRECT GRAPHITE PURCHASES TO NEW MALAGASY DIRECTOR OF MINES AND ENERGY. LATTER NOTED AT PRESENT THERE WERE NO ADDITIONAL STOCKS OF GRAPHITE ON HAND IN COUNTRY BUT INDICATED INTEREST IN HEARING FROM UNION CARBIDE. FOR THIS REASON, AND BECAUSE IT HAS BEEN OUR EXPERIENCE THAT COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN MALAGASY EMBASSY AND OTHER ELEMENTS OF GOMR OFTEN LEAVE SOMETHING TO BE DESIRED, SUGGEST THAT, IN ADDITION TO DISCUSSIONS WITH MALAGASY COMMERCIAL ATTACHE, UNION CARBIDE CONTACT THIS DIRECTOR, DIRECTLY OR BY LETTER AT FOLLOWING ADDRESS: M. RENE RAZAFINDRATANDRA, DIRECTEUR DES MINES ET DE L'ENERGIE, MINISTERE DE L'ECONOMIE ET DES FINANCES, B.P. 280, TANANARIVE, MALAGASY REPUBLIC. MENDENHALL

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30 JUN 2005

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